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FERAL CAT INITIATIVE

Council feeds the kitty

MARYANNE FIRTH
 InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — The Port Colborne Feral Cat Initiative has cleared the first hurdle to receive city funding for its program in 2010.

Program volunteers packed into council chambers Monday night during budget deliberations in hopes of seeing their \$5,000 request for funding approved.

Council approved a motion to provide the group with one-time funding of \$5,000 in the 2010 budget.

See FERAL CAT INITIATIVE | Page 7

See Inside: **PUPPO'S**
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POWERHOUSE PROJECT: First program of its kind in Canada brings childhood back to young carers

Growing up before their time

KAESHA FORAND
 InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Not all children get to enjoy their childhood to the fullest.

Sometimes life gets in the way and so do uncontrollable circumstances.

Some children are forced to grow up early and give up baseball games or birthday parties to help care for a relative, translate for their parents or help a special needs sibling.

In comes the Powerhouse Project, a Young Carers Initiative that provides children with an escape from their daily lives.

Sommer Chanthra, Powerhouse Project Niagara program co-ordinator, says drop-in sessions for young carers are held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Chanthra is trying to get the word out that youths with extra responsibilities can drop in to make friends and enjoy being a kid.

The Powerhouse Project has 151 members from across the region, but since September the numbers of kids at drop-in sessions have dropped. Staff can accommodate about 15 children per evening and are averaging between six and 10.

The program is free to young carers who tend to a sibling, parent or grandparent with a disability, language barrier, chronic illness or are recovering from substance abuse. An application form must be filled and young carers must sign up for programs.

"Mom could have depression, a brother could have ADHD or they could be visually impaired. (Young carers) can get away, de-stress and focus on themselves. Learn new skills."

During the drop-in sessions, children between the ages of five and 18 enjoy a snack, do a craft, play board games or Wii. Classes include cooking with care and fitness and special trips include rock climbing or seeing a magic show in Niagara Falls.

The Powerhouse Project Young Carers Initiative is funded through



KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo

Sommer Chanthra models some Play-Doh creations with David Sheppard at the Powerhouse Project, a Young Carers Initiative. Children who have extra responsibilities at home can drop in on Tuesdays and Thursdays for time to be a kid and meet youngsters who share similar situations.

the Local Health Integration Network. It's the first program of its type in Canada, however, it's also popular in the United States, Great Britain and Australia.

"The people who developed it hope to make it nationwide," Chanthra says.

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upfront

■ **CRIME:** Judge to announce verdict May 13

Trial concludes in charges against officer

ALLAN BENNER
InPort News Staff

WELLAND — Defence attorney Ron Brady argued security lapses at the Port Colborne police station makes it impossible to determine who leaked information to the Hells Angels.

But Crown prosecutor Robin Flumerfelt said the evidence overwhelmingly points to the guilt of Const. Dean Rudge, regardless of the inadequate security.

After hearing final arguments Monday Feb. 22, concluding more than two weeks of testimony in a Welland courtroom, Judge Harrison Arrell will announce his verdict May 13 into charges against Rudge, who was arrested April 4, 2007, for breach of trust by a public officer.

Considering law security at the Port Colborne police station, Brady said, anyone from a disgruntled former police officer to a cleaning person could have had access to confidential documents that were later found in the possession of a member of the Hells Angels.

Brady said the fact that his client's fingerprints were found on several of those documents does not prove he was responsible for leaking information to the members of the motorcycle gang prior to a police crackdown in 2006.

Brady said the Port Colborne office was protected by an alarm system, but no one ever bothered to set it. And, he said, the three-number code

used to gain access to the office had not been changed in 24 years.

The station, he added, also sat empty for hours at a time most week-nights and on Saturday and Sunday.

Although security at the office has since been improved, with the recent installation of security cameras at the front door, Brady said at the time the incidents were suspected to occur the office "was easily accessible to anyone who wanted to make the effort."

"There was absolutely nothing monitoring entry to the building," he said, adding investigating officers failed to recognize the lack of security at the detachment.

Flumerfelt dismissed those arguments as "a tortured combination of impossibilities that cannot withstand scrutiny."

Flumerfelt said seven of 10 documents in question were printed by Rudge, and Rudge would have had access to the other three. They included police memos about an ongoing investigation of the motorcycle gang, an Ontario Motorcycle Gang police booklet and a police bulletin about the rival Outlaws motorcycle gang considering a return to Niagara.

Flumerfelt said some of the documents were also specific to Rudge—including a calendar of his shifts and days off found in the office at Cedar Bay Inn, a property that was owned by Hells Angels president Ken Wagner, and managed by Wagner's common-law wife Sandra Taylor.

Flumerfelt said another document

about a prospective Hells Angels member that was found in the gang's possession could have only been obtained from the police detachment in Welland—a fact that counters arguments about the lack of security in Port Colborne's office.

One document Rudge printed was found in Wagner's pickup truck parked in the driveway of his home. On the back of that document, Flumerfelt said, additional confidential information was written in Taylor's handwriting. He said the information she wrote down could have only been obtained by an active police officer with access to the NRP's computer system.

"The evidence demonstrates that this was a police leak by an active police officer," he said.

Flumerfelt referred to a series of phone calls between Rudge and Taylor during the time information was being leaked.

Although Brady said those conversations were concerned specifically with help Rudge was trying to offer to Taylor's then 14-year-old daughter, Flumerfelt said a flurry of calls were placed at the time when the documents were being leaked.

Rudge has been suspended from duty with pay, in accordance with the Police Services Act, since his arrest in April 2007. If found guilty of the current breach of trust charge, Rudge could face up to five years in jail.

abenner@wellandtribune.ca

■ **ELECTION**

Canby throws hat into Wainfleet race

KAESHA FORAND
InPort News Staff



Eugene Canby

WAINFLEET — Eugene Canby hopes to see a revamped Wainfleet council after the next election and he hopes his name will be on a plaque with the title of alderman.

The Lakeshore Rd. resident is the first candidate to submit his name for the Oct. 25 municipal elections in the township. In Wainfleet, voters will elect four aldermen and a mayor.

This is Canby's second time running for alderman. He finished fifth of eight candidates in 2006.

"The existing council in one word has got to go. The only one I support is Ted Hessels," he said last week. "I don't agree with anything and everything (council has) done."

"The retiree has taken great interest in the proposed water and sewer pipeline project and has strong, negative feelings about the project he is "totally opposed to it," Canby said he is against the project and, using his professional engineering expertise, would like to see completed contracts, drawings, but believes when all the information is available, the project will collapse under its own weight.

"There is no way in any circumstances I will approve this project."

He said as an engineer, he would feel more at ease if a contract for construction was awarded to a company that could also provide a bid bond and a performance bond to ensure timely, accurate and complete work.

The 80-year-old said his election campaign will include obtaining the township's voters list, looking voters up in the phone book and calling as many as possible to encourage them to turn out to the polls.

"I will phone everybody on the phone list to get people to vote," he said.

See ELECTION | Page 7

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Wild about reptiles



Port Colborne High School students are learning about reptiles, such as snakes, to become Ontario reptile educational outreach presenters. Presenters teach feeder school students about reptiles. This new reptile outreach after-school program — targeted at students with a passion for wild animals, wild spaces, and outdoors activities — will give students a unique environment to learn about post-secondary opportunities in science, particularly biological sciences, and develop career-building skills at a young age. The project is funded in part by TD Friends of the Environment Foundation and Ontario Power Generation.

— KAESHA FORAND, STAFF PHOTOS



Top left: Anusha Kanesh holds a tropical milk snake.

Top right: Jeff Hathaway displays a number of corn snakes.

Lower left: Port Colborne High School student Tim Robinson receives a garter snake from Hathaway, co-founder of Scienstational Ssnakes in Orillia.

Lower right: Kallee Hopkins and Sara Wikston learn about a snapping turtle held by Teala Tyson.



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ourview

Canal Days was money well spent

The figures are in.
 It cost Port Colborne taxpayers \$31,000 for Canal Days.
 Members of city council heard the news during last Monday's council meeting.

That's not a big price to pay when you consider it brought in hundreds of thousands of tourists.
 City staff took a risk bringing in big name act Randy Bachman and Burton Cummings for a big chunk of cash. Although tickets didn't sell out, they still brought in money. It's not like last summer was a busy shopping season, and odds are that most retailers and restaurants were struggling to get customers to spend. An event like Canal Days meant people were lining up out the door for ice cream at the Nutty Chocolaterie, waiting for crispy fish and fries from Minor's Fisheries and browsing the racks at Serendipities. Clarence St. businesses and bars were busy, and organizations such as Port Cares had the opportunity to raise a few extra dollars from funding barbecues.

In an ideal world, all of the city's expenses would have been reimbursed, but the event brought huge crowds into the city. The hope is that a few of them would consider living or come to a retirement community, or that a young family saw potential in this lakeside city.

Of course, we would also be happy if a few hundred saw the potential of visiting Port Colborne during their summer vacation.

Congratulations to chamber award winners

This week, Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce held its president's awards reception at the Rose-lane Centre. You'll find the story and photo in next week's edition.

Heartfelt congratulations go out to youth citizen of the year Kaitlin Saxton, a Lakeshore Catholic student who volunteers with Community Living, the Beach Out Centre, her church and a number of local organizations.

Citizen of the year Jane Nigh is a volunteer manager at Ten Thousand Villages and helped spearhead the fair trade town steering committee in this lakeside city. Her pride in providing fair trade products is evident in her work which benefits farmers and artisans around the world, and pays them fair wages for their time and products.

Tidymen Maintenance Ltd. was named business of the year for its services and hiring its staff through Port Cares. Through the past 21 years, it has grown to employ more than 18 people.

Without Port Colborne and Wainfleet residents such as these, our communities would not be the same. There were a slew of other nominees for these awards and we also commend them for their volunteer efforts.

PUB HOSTS FUNDRAISER FOR PORT CARES



Supplied Photo

During Sportsfest, the Canalside Pub and Eatery hosted a music trivia night and a soup cookoff, which raised \$800 for Port Cares. Rosemary and Greg Poisson present a cheque to Pam Swick Janjac of Port Cares, centre, at the restaurant.

readers'views

Do today's teachers pass the test?

In the news the past couple of days, we've seen two polar opposite sides of teachers.

It makes me, as a former teacher, wonder what kind of teachers were educating novakids. It also makes me wonder why teachers over the past 10 to 15 years have lost respect of the public and their students, if you use the first two teachers as an example.

Of course, the two in Winnipeg from Churchill High School are perhaps exceptions to the rule. I truly hope so.

When I was in high school 42 years ago I had many young teachers who were only six, seven, eight years older than I. Many of them my brother's contemporaries. However, I could never imagine any of them performing a simulated lap dance at a pep rally and using the lame excuse that they got too enthusiastic.

Our teachers knew the line between being one of the kids and being a professional teacher.

Apparently these two immature and unprofessional high school teachers aren't aware there is a line.

They've been suspended with pay. What kind of punishment is that?

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TURKEY

The grown-ups are in charge



Gwynne Dyer

"Enough. No more. The army's morale is broken," said General Ilker Basbug, the chief of staff of the Turkish army, but the humiliations continue. Another 50 officers were arrested last week for suspected involvement in a 2003 plot to overthrow the government, including the current chief of the navy, a retired air force chief, and a former deputy chief of the army.

The plot, codenamed Sledge-hammer, was revealed when the newspaper Taraf began publishing information gleaned from 5,000 pages of stolen army documents that came into its hands early this year. This comes on top of the Ergenekon scandal of 2008, in which several hundred people including four-star generals were arrested for belonging to a secret organization of that name that was also planning a coup.

The main Ergenekon trials, with 142 defendants, have been underway for more than a year, and have brought a constant drip of revelations about the groups' attempts to create an atmosphere so tense that a military take-over would be welcomed, including an armed attack on a court and the bombing of a newspaper. The army's troops have already arrested some of the latest arrests — and public anxiety about a military coup was already high.

In fact, however, the threat of a coup has been declining for years. The information is only coming out now, but the actual coups were planned for 2003. In at least one case, the army high command intervened directly to block it. And today's army chief of staff has accepted the arrest of dozens of generals and admirals without protest.

General Basbug is not happy about it and he disputes the meaning of some of the documents, but his outburst (quoted above) is more a plea than a threat. The real drama happened years ago, and the winners were democracy and the rule of law. Turkey has been a democracy for half a century, but it was a rigidly secular democracy (in a 99% Muslim country) that allowed no reference to religion in its politics. If any politician hinted that he had Islamic leanings, he faced prosecution in the courts. If he became prime minister, he faced a military coup — and there have been four such coups since 1960.

The reason lay in Turkey's history.

See GWYNNE DYER | Page 5

■ GWYNNE DYER

There won't be a coup in Turkey

FROM PAGE 4

The Ottoman empire was an Islamic state, but in the end all the Muslim subject peoples became nationalists and rebelled against Turkish rule. Turkey itself was nearly divided up into European colonies at the end of the First World War.

It narrowly escaped that fate under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal (Ataturk), and the conclusion he drew from this history was that to survive, Turkey must become a strong, modern state—which at the time meant only one thing: it must become a fully European society. Islam was a potential weapon in the hands of those who wanted to resist that change and therefore it must be rigorously excluded from politics.

By the start of this century, Ataturk's goals had largely been achieved. Turkey was a powerful country with a higher average income than several of its Balkan neighbours, and more people than all of them put together. It was also a democracy in most respects and even a candidate to join the European Union. But the total ban on religion in politics survived and so did the (unwritten) right of the army to enforce that ban.

The Justice and Development (AK) Party has its roots in political Islam and since it won power after the 2003 election the

country has been divided into two camps.

It's not just the army; despite that 99% Muslim figure, Turkey is a typical European country in that many of its citizens are not very religious. Some are not believers at all, though it is still unwise to say so publicly.

Devout Turks, on the other hand, do not see why they cannot organize politically to resist anti-religious discrimination. The AK Party swears that it has no wish to shove religion down the throats of secular Turks, and in six years in power it has not done so.

But secular people suspect that it is just biding its time until it has tamed the army, the historic guardian of the secular state—and then it will be full steam ahead to the Islamic state.

That seems unlikely to me, but more importantly, it seems unlikely to the collective leadership of the Turkish armed forces. Groups of generals may plot coups, but the high command blocks them. And it should be noted that both the coup plots that have now become public were hatched back in 2003, when the AKP had just won power and suspicion about its intentions

was at fever pitch among secular Turks.

The murders and bombings allegedly carried out in later years by Ergenekon, like the bombings of mosques and the war with Greece that the more recently discovered Sledge-hammer plot envisaged, were intended to raise tension and force the high command to accept a military take-

over.

But they failed: there was no coup. And there will not be one now.

Gwynne Dyer is a London-based independent journalist whose articles are published in 45 countries.

Ask the HEALTH EXPERT

KATE RHEAUME-BLUE B.Sc.N.D.

Abdominal Fat and Insomnia

Can't sleep? Got a few extra pounds around the waistline? Turns out there may be an important connection between these two seemingly unrelated health conditions.

Researchers at Vancouver's Canadian Center for Functional Medicine discovered this as yet unpublished phenomenon whilst conducting clinical trials on PolyGlycoPlex (PGX) for weight loss. PGX is a combination of natural soluble fibres that has been extensively studied for its ability to help people lose weight, reduce the glycemic index of foods, improve insulin sensitivity and reduce cholesterol.

Within only a few weeks of the start of the weight loss studies, participants began to report greatly improved sleep. Since sleep quality was not a parameter being measured in the studies, the evidence was gathered informally. However, so many people reported the same effect that the situation warranted closer investigation. A common pattern began to emerge: people sleep better when blood sugar levels stabilize.

It seems that many nighttime awakenings are

associated with sudden changes in blood glucose. When blood sugar levels plummet, the body responds by producing adrenalin to ensure glucose supply to the brain. This middle-of-the-night adrenalin surge can wake you from a deep sleep. PGX was shown to stabilize to (daily and nightly) glycemic fluctuations.

Overweight individuals – and those with excess abdominal fat in particular – tend to have blood sugar levels that change erratically throughout the day. This leaves them prone to blood glucose swings during sleep, with 3 am being a common wakening hour.

This finding brings to light a new connection between sleep quality and body weight. It may also point the way towards a novel therapy that treats the root cause of insomnia: stabilizing blood sugar levels. PGX is available in several forms including softgels called PGX Daily.



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■ **ENVIRONMENT:** Obama initiative works well with mayors' Great Lakes Cities Initiative, says Badawey

U.S. plan pours \$2.2 billion into Great Lakes cleanup

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — That improving water quality and restoring the Great Lakes system is on the U.S. government's agenda is great news for people living around the lakes, says Mayor Vance Badawey.

U.S. President Barack Obama's administration announced the development of a five-year plan that will see more than \$2.2 billion spent for the Great Lakes.

Among the plan's goals is a "zero toler-

ance policy" toward future invasions by foreign species, including the Asian carp, a huge, voracious fish that has overrun portions of the Mississippi River system and is threatening to enter Lake Michigan.

Others include cleanup of the region's most heavily polluted sites, restoring wetlands and other crucial habitat, and improving water quality in shallow areas, where runoff from cities and farms has led to unsightly algae blooms and beach closings.

Also promised is a strategy for monitor-

ing the ecosystem's health and holding U.S. federal agencies accountable for carrying out the plan.

Badawey says the plan set out by the U.S. administration works well with what Great Lakes mayors have been talking about for years now.

"We've been working with mayors along the lakes since the late '90s, early 2000s, through the Great Lakes Cities Initiative, to improve water quality throughout the system," says Badawey.

The mayor of Port Colborne says Mayor Richard Daley of Chicago is the driving force behind the initiative and mayors from large centres such as Montreal and Toronto, to smaller cities such as Goderich, all work together.

Through the initiative, the group developed a five-point plan that will tackle such things as promoting beaches and natural shorelines, attacking toxic and nuisance algae, and reducing the outflow of raw sewage and untreated stormwater into the lakes.

Badawey says locally the challenge has been keeping untreated sewage and stormwater from the lake and Welland Canal.

"It's key," he says. "A lot has been done to ensure our infrastructure is up to date so nothing gets into the lake."

That includes a \$22-million investment in the city's Sewage Wastewater Treatment plant to increase its capacity to treat

sewage and stormwater runoff.

"If we don't have the increased capacity, then during a big storm, things would be discharged into the lake," says Badawey.

With proper infrastructure in place, water quality should start to improve, he says.

Improving water quality is on the U.S. government's agenda through the new plan.

American officials said the administration's plan — combined with enforcement of existing environmental rules and the creation of new ones where needed — would help make Great Lakes fish safe to eat, their waters suitable for drinking and swimming, and their native plants and animals thrive.

The lakes provide drinking water to more than 30 million people and are the backbone of a regional economy dependent on tourism, outdoor recreation, shipping and manufacturing.

Badawey says the marine industry has gotten behind keeping the Great Lakes clean through its Green Marine program. That program's goals are to strengthen environmental performance through a process of continuous improvement, build strong relations with Great Lakes — St. Lawrence Waterway stakeholders, and heighten understanding of the industry's activities and environmental benefits.

"Everyone is doing their part and working together," says Badawey.

The mayor also welcomes the plan's call to deal with invasive species, such as the Asian carp.

Foreign species have a great impact on the natural species inhabiting the Great Lakes, says the mayor.

"If we don't do something now, things will only get worse," says Badawey.

— with files from The Associated Press



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■ FERAL CAT INITIATIVE

Port program aims to make 'pawsitive' difference

FROM PAGE 1

As budget deliberations continue, however, the program's funding may come under discussion again by council at a future meeting.

Kristi Mallinson-Vogel spoke on behalf of the group, updating council on the success the trap, neuter, release program has had since its inception three months ago.

Port Colborne council allotted \$5,000 to the group last year for the program, which to date has successfully treated 87 cats. Throughout the year, program volunteers worked to fundraise for the initiative, bringing in an additional \$2,100.

Another 40 cats are scheduled for spay/neuter procedures in March, cutting the groups waiting list in half but also depleting its bank account, she said.

Mallinson-Vogel told council that one female cat and her offspring can produce up to 1,300 cats in a 12-year period.

Of the 87 cats treated through the program, 49 were female. This means a potential 156,800 additional free-roaming cats over 12 years have been avoided through the program, she said.

"That's a high return on the initial \$5,000 investment in the project."

In 2008 alone, 5,000 cats were destroyed in Niagara due to overpopulation.

"This is inhumane and unacceptable," she said.

The group's trap, neuter, release program is the "humane way" to address the issue that has turned into an epidemic in the region.

Cats captured through the program are spayed/neutered, vaccinated and ear-tipped to confirm they roam free but as part of a managed colony.

Mallinson-Vogel said the program is receiving new applications each day, and the waiting list will quickly grow again, faster than the issue can be addressed.

"In last week, we've already had another 20 enrol in the program."

Cats the program has assisted are those brought in voluntarily by community members, she said, adding there are a number of feral cat colonies in the community that have yet to be touched.

If the group wants to continue outreach in 2010, it will need further city support, she said.

Ward 3 Coun. Gary Bruno asked about the group's long-term plan, to which Mallinson-Vogel responded that in the long run she sees this as an issue to be addressed regionally.

The issue of citizens not spaying and neutering their cats is an issue that is too large to be tackled by a single group, she said.

She said the issue needs to be addressed by community stakeholders like veterinarians, the SPCA and small volunteer groups such as the Port Colborne Feral Cat Initiative.

"We can help to clean up the problem if given a small amount of money each year, but we won't get to the root of it."

Bruno asked that the group provide a report for the future outlining their long-term focus.

Ward 4 Coun. Barbara Butters said unlike in some municipalities where the problem has gotten unmanageable, Port Colborne has an opportunity to "get a handle on it."

It might take council to "step up" and show leadership by providing funding for the initiative, she said.

"This is the best money I've ever seen invested in my life," Butters said after hearing the results of the initiative's first year of work.

mfrth@wellandtribune.ca

■ ELECTION

Candidate hopes for change of leadership

FROM PAGE 2

When the weather warms up, residents might see Canby on his electric scooter travelling throughout the township, but he believes his main method of campaigning will be by phone.

Another election issue for Canby is township law, which includes one regulation that makes spitting punishable by a fine. He said he doesn't agree with "some of the idiotic little bylaws these city slickers are imposing."

"I want to read bylaws and have them reviewed for their efficacy."

He said if voters don't elect him, he hopes for new leaders and a new mayor.

Canby has owned property in Wainfleet his entire life and lived in the Dundas area only for about 15 years. His grandfather, Benjamin Canby, was reeve of the township in the early 1900s.

—jforand@wellandtribune.ca

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March 13

The Port Colborne Legion Branch 56 is holding a fundraiser at the branch on Clarence St. featuring a show and dance with Johnny Cash and his friends Elvis, Hank Snow, Stompin' Tom, Patsy Kline and Tim McGraw. Tickets are \$15 and are available at the bar or by calling Jessie at 905-835-8962 or Doreen at 905-834-0000. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and pizza will be served at 11 p.m.

March 20

Easter pictures will be taken at Boggio's Pharmacy. People can bring a non-perishable food item for Port Cares and receive a five-by-seven print from photographer April Jefs.

April 1

The Winger-Wainfleet Women's Institute is holding its annual meeting at noon with a pot-luck lunch in the Friendship Room at the Wainfleet

Arena. For more information contact Elizabeth at 905-899-4872.

May 6

The Winger-Wainfleet Women's Institute is holding its meeting titled Making History at 1:30 p.m. in the Friendship Room at the Wainfleet Arena. For more information contact Elizabeth at 905-899-4872.

Ongoing

The Alzheimer Society of Niagara Region support groups for caregivers meets the first Tuesday of each month (except July and August) from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Rapelle Lodge, 277 Plymouth Rd., Welland. For information call 905-687-3914.

The 79 Lynton Davies Air Cadet Squadron meets every Tuesday at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 200 Erie St., Port Colborne, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Interested persons should con-

tact captain John Derosieu at 905-272-7609.

Kids zone for children age six to 12 runs every Monday and Friday from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the centre for Community Living, 100 McRae Ave., until June 18 for a \$5 registration fee. Free transportation available. Call 905-835-8941 ext. 135. All events are supervised by adults.

Library activities

Adult Knitting classes with Vicki Fretz, held Tuesday evenings from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. will continue to April 20. The Thursday afternoon classes from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. go to March 11, then begin again on Mar. 25 to Apr. 22. To join the knitter's club call Vicki at 905-835-5373.

Tai Chi can improve your health, well-being, balance and breathing. Mondays 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the auditorium. Call 905-321-9536 for more information.

Express Yourself: Writer's Support Group with facilitators Gary and Kitty Roy, Thursdays 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Practical advice on getting published, finding a literary agent, and copyrights. For more information contact the facilitators by e-mail at info@cojceco.ca, or call the library at 905-834-6512.

Films for seniors presented the first Wednesday of the month until May 130 p.m. in the auditorium. Free admission and refreshments.

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■ COMMUNITY

Funding flatlines for Healthy Lifestyles Coalition

KAESHA FORAND
InPort News Staff



KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo

Former Port Colborne-Wainfleet Healthy Lifestyles Coalition program manager Lori Kleinsmith displays some of the promotional materials and healthy living campaign posters that were distributed throughout the community.

PORT COLBORNE — After almost 20 years of providing programs in Port Colborne and Wainfleet to encourage healthy lifestyles, the Port Colborne-Wainfleet Healthy Lifestyles Coalition will no longer receive funding to operate its programs.

The Healthy Lifestyles Demonstration Project began in the early '90s when the government invested money into underserved communities which helped create a number of different programs to address drugs, alcohol, tobacco, nutrition and physical education.

Healthy Day in the Park was created. In the mid-1990s, a different approach was taken when the project moved toward preventative projects with alcohol and drugs. In recent years, program manager Lori Kleinsmith and a team created the Way To

Go Decision Making program and targeted Grade 5 students to teach alcohol and drug abuse prevention and the importance of making good decisions in life.

"We built really good relationships with kids," she said, noting the first group of students who participated are now in their first year of post-secondary education. "We were out in schools constantly with staff."

The program was curriculum-based and included followups in grades 6, 7 and 8. With the end of the coalition, Kleinsmith and her staff will no longer be able to provide the programs. Binders with information will be left with teachers and it will be up to schools then to implement the program.

The Ministry of Health Promotion recently introduced a new funding model under the Healthy Communities Ontario approach. The new model means 22 Focus community projects will not be renewed,

including the coalition.

Last summer the There's No Excuse campaign was launched to reduce drinking and driving with Port High student Nick Smith in a police booking photo outlining a number of excuses teens often give for drinking and driving. The program focused on injury and death prevention.

With the end of the coalition Kleinsmith and her staff of Kim Gillespie and Jamie Veldman are dispersing their materials and resources to community partners including schools, the police department and Safe Communities.

It's hard to say how many lives have been affected by the coalition's programs because "prevention work is always difficult to measure," she said, noting the coalition has formed partnerships with a number of community organizations and groups.

The Healthy Lifestyles Coalition was also a key partner with the creation of Safe Communities and Every Kid in our Community.

The coalition also spearheaded the Impact conference that teaches teens about substance abuse prevention. It has since grown to a regional conference drawing 200 teens annually. It also created the successful youth justice program that was taken over by Port Cars in 1998.

"A lot of things that we've done can be carried on by partners."

The government provided about \$100,000 annually to fund the coalition. Funding runs dry on March 31.

Niagara Health System also provided assistance with their programs and provided in kind donations.

Organizations wanting information about other options can contact Gillespie at 905-834-4501 ext. 32146. Kleinsmith is now a health promoter with Bridges Community Health Centres. She will continue to be a resource for projects like Safe Communities, assist local schools, and work on projects such as a support group to help residents quit smoking (March 1, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., McKellar Hall at Port Colborne hospital.)

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PORT COLBORNE

CITY HALL NEWS

A Newsletter written by Staff for the Residents of Port Colborne

MARCH 2010

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Port Colborne's first economic development strategy and action plan

Port Colborne Economic & Tourism Development is creating the City's first comprehensive economic development strategy and action plan. Through an extensive consultation and evaluation process, the City will identify priorities and opportunities for retaining, expanding and/or diversifying local key business activities including: distribution and logistics, bio-business/agri-food innovation, food processing, and tourism. The City will also look at options for strengthening and diversifying its fabricated metals manufacturing industry including targeting businesses involved in the development of the oil sands and renewable energy projects.

With financial support being provided by the Province of Ontario's Communities in Transition program, the economic development strategy and action plan initiative is being facilitated by the consulting firm of Miller Dickinson Blais Inc. in coordination with Port Colborne Economic & Tourism Development. This builds upon previous work conducted by Port Colborne Economic & Tourism Development including the Competitive Analysis of Industries in the City of Port Colborne, which was prepared in 2009.

For the economic development strategy and action plan, January 2010 marked the first phase of the public consultation process through a series of focus groups being held with a wide range of community representatives. The focus group process is important to develop a clear statement of what stakeholders would ideally like to see Port Colborne become in the future. Through a series of four questions, representatives from the Queen's Executive Decision Centre, Miller Dickinson Blais Inc., and Port Colborne Economic



Honourable Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Sandra Pupatello and Mayor Vance Badawey.

& Tourism Development captured Port Colborne's strengths and weaknesses to develop a better understanding of strategies to help Port Colborne prosper.

The focus group sessions were well attended and stimulated the exchange of ideas from participants.

The input and discussion provided at these groups have given the consultants writing the economic development strategy and action plan a lot of material to work with, and will ensure the final product is well rounded and reflective of true needs of Port Colborne. Port Colborne Economic & Tourism Development extends its gratitude to all participants.

All Port Colborne residents, stakeholders, and businesses are invited to complete an Internet based survey located at www.portcolborne.ca/page/strategy. This short survey provides another opportunity for the public to provide information and opinions that will be considered as the strategy is being written. Public input collected through focus groups, one-on-one meetings, public meetings, and the on-line survey is a critical part of the strategy development. The information gathered from all these sources will be fed into developing the economic development priorities and action plans for Port Colborne. This information will be used to identify key priorities for the community to consider in the economic development strategy and action plan. A draft strategy will be available shortly, and will go to Port Colborne City Council this spring for consideration.

Interested members of the community should watch the strategy page on the City's website for information about upcoming meetings, presentations or ways to get involved. Residents, stakeholders, and businesses can also contact the Port Colborne Economic & Tourism Development office to subscribe to regular email updates.

Ontario Ministry of Economic Development contributes \$40,000 to Port Colborne's first economic development strategy.

PORT COLBORNE

is working to
identify opportunities
for growth and
prosperity that will
strengthen
its economy



On March 30th at 6:30 p.m. Port Colborne Economic Development will hold an economic development event that will begin with a presentation "Economic Development 2.0" by Brock Dickinson, Co-Director of the University of Waterloo's Local Economic Development Program. Brock's presentation will be followed by a presentation of the findings and draft recommendations of the strategic economic development plan. Input on the recommendations will be sought and incorporated into the final strategy.

PHOTO: Paul Blais, partner with Miller Dickinson Blais Inc., Bill Lockhart from the Queen's Executive Decision Centre, Stephen Thompson, general manager of Port Colborne Economic Development, and Mayor Vance Badawey at City Hall for the focus group held on January 19th, 2010.

Community Improvement Plans and Official Plan

Olde Humberstone Main Street Area

The new streetscape design for Main Street is almost complete! The City working with its consultants is in the final stages of the Main Street Streetscape design plans. A final public open house was held on February 23, 2010 and construction of the project is slated to begin in late spring. Improvements include: new sidewalk, parking and road surfaces, extensive landscaping and greening, and new lighting and signage. Council will hear the Planning & Development Department's recommendation report at its meeting on March 8, 2010, for consideration and approval of the final streetscape design.

Downtown Central Business District Community Improvement Plan, Urban Design Guidelines, Streetscape Plan and Traffic Study

The Community Improvement Plan for the Downtown Central Business District is well underway. Workshops were held in November 2009 to create a new vision for the downtown and Planning Staff have been working with the consultant and various interested parties to bring that vision to life. The final Plan is expected to be completed by spring of 2010 and will facilitate

improvements to the downtown core of the City through the identification of specific areas for improvement and strategies the municipality can use to encourage private investment. Additional public meetings will be held in the coming months.

Brownfield Strategy / Community Improvement Plan

On January 11, 2010, the final draft Brownfield Strategy/Community Improvement Plan was presented to City Council and will be adopted by Council in the near future. The CIP will facilitate and promote the redevelopment of brownfield sites throughout the City. Brownfields are abandoned, idled or underused industrial and commercial properties where redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. The CIP will outline specific municipal programs and actions designed to encourage private sector investment in cleaning up and redeveloping brownfield sites. This will help to improve the environmental, economic and social conditions in employment areas and neighborhoods in Port Colborne. The final draft of the Community Improvement Plan is available on the City website at www.portcolborne.ca for review.

The City of Port Colborne New Official Plan (Adopted 2006)

In 2006, City Council adopted the City of Port Colborne New Official Plan. The Region of Niagara, as the final approval authority for Official Plans, has not yet formally approved the 2006 Official Plan. Since 2006, there have been a number of changes to the Provincial and Regional policies to which the City's Official Plan is required to comply. Planning Staff have worked to revise, update and improve the adopted "New Official Plan" in order to incorporate these changes and move forward with Regional approval. An open house will be held in early spring to present the changes needed to the Official Plan for review and comment. The City of Port Colborne Official Plan will be a comprehensive document representing the planning goals for the municipality and identifying where and how the City will grow over the next 25 years.

Information on any of the projects noted above is available on the City website at www.portcolborne.ca. If you have any questions or comments regarding any of the abovementioned projects, contact Lindsay Richardson at 905-835-2901 x129 or via email at lindsayrichardson@portcolborne.ca.

Installation of Smart Meters SET TO BEGIN IN PORT COLBORNE

Homeowners in Port Colborne are about to get "smarter" as Canadian Niagara Power Inc. (CNPI) prepares to launch a city-wide installation of new electricity meters designed to help residents manage their energy costs. The project to exchange existing residential meters with a "Smart Meter" in Port Colborne will begin in mid-December and is expected to be completed in March 2010. This Ministry of Energy has estimated that all residential and small businesses in Ontario will have a Smart Meter by 2010.

Existing meters measure the total amount of electricity used in a billing period and the cost of power is the same per kilowatt hour throughout the day. A Smart Meter will measure how much electricity is used on an hourly basis along with the time of day it was used.

Residents who have an outside meter will not need to be at home when the switch to the Smart Meter is done. If the meter is inside, a representative of CNPI will call to book an appointment. For the safety of the installation crew, there will be a short power interruption during the meter exchange. An information package on Smart Meters will be provided at each location; further information on the Smart Meter installation is also available at www.cnpower.com. Representatives of CNPI will carry CNPI-issued identification and will not be asking for your hydro bill. No contracts are required and the customer does not need to sign any documents.

The Smart Meter, along with the planned introduction of "time-of-use" electricity rates, will allow those

customers not under an energy retail contract to better manage their energy costs. Under the "time-of-use" rate plan, the price of electricity will vary over each set period during a weekday, as well as during weekends and holidays, and from season to season. Non-retailer enrolled customers can take advantage of the lower rate periods to reduce their electricity bill. Conversely, customers will pay a higher rate for power used during peak periods. Until the "time of use" rate structure is implemented in Port Colborne in the spring of 2011, there will be no change to how electricity rates work and how Port Colborne residents are currently billed for electricity.

"Once Smart Meters and 'time-of-use' rates are fully implemented in the spring of 2011, this will enable our customers to monitor their electricity usage on an hourly basis, which should provide more incentive to conserve energy during periods of peak demand," said Bill Daley President & CEO, Canadian Niagara Power Inc.

CNPI is a wholly owned subsidiary of Fort Ontario Inc. Fort Ontario Inc. is headquartered in Erie and has operations in electricity distribution and transmission and serves approximately 65,000 customers primarily located in Erie, Port Colborne, Cornwall, Ganarone and the Algoma district of Ontario and meets a peak demand of 226 MW. Fort Ontario is 100% owned by Fortis Inc. of St. John's, Newfoundland. For more information on Fort Ontario, please visit the corporate website at www.fortontario.com.

Humberstone Hall CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

In May 2008 the Port Colborne Visitor Information Centre moved from the Lighthouse at Lock & Gateway Park to Humberstone Hall at 76 Main Street. To minimize the impact on visitor centre operations, the centre operated during the 2008 and 2009 summer seasons with minimal changes, allowing for a more thorough consideration of the options with respect to the building and stakeholders. In the fall of 2009 it was recommended to Council to move forward with the full renovation and the demolition of the 1955 addition.

The restoration of the former Humberstone Township municipal building (once Humberstone Hall) will allow both the Port Colborne Visitor Information Centre and the Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce to share the historic building.

Community stakeholders are a key component of this project. The Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce, Port Colborne Heritage Committee, the Port Colborne Gateway Association (Main Street), the City of Port Colborne and the Port Colborne Economic & Tourism Development Corporation have

worked collectively to develop a vision and an implementation plan for the Centre. Work on this project began on January 18th, 2010 and will be completed mid-April.

The location of the Visitor Information Centre, on Main Street is the main Highway 3 thoroughfare between Buffalo and Haldimand, Norfolk, Simcoe, St. Thomas and other communities along Ontario's south coast. The Visitor Information Centre will help Port Colborne promote itself to new markets including Western New York and also build awareness of Port Colborne to pass-through traffic.

The Visitor Information Centre will provide tourists with a window into Port Colborne and the surrounding communities, giving them access to real, up-to-date information, straight from the people who really know what is happening in our city. A good visitor centre can mean the difference between visitors just driving through and those choosing to stay, see the local sights and spend in the local economy.

2010 Projects & Tenders

The contract for the Large Diameter Watermain on Catharine Street has been awarded to Centennial Construction of Niagara Falls. The project is scheduled to start in April 2010. The project involves a new 20" Watermain from the water tower on King Street down Superior and Catharine Streets to Clarence Street. Repairs to the old stone storm sewer on Catharine Street will also be taking place along with the replacement of an old cast iron sewer on King Street.

Tenders for the Hot Mix Asphalt Concrete Supplies, Crushed Stone Supplies and Equipment Rentals for Summer and Winter Operations closed in February 2010. The Hot Mix Supplies are purchased from time to time by the Municipality during the course of the year for various maintenance work. The work items includes such as hole repairs, patching trench reinstatements, and localized road repairs. The Crushed Stone Supplies are needed for repairs on items such as shoulder/side road repairs and trench backfills. The Equipment Rentals will be needed to supplement City owned equipment for the purpose of performing various tasks and maintenance work during the course of the year.

Each year the City tenders for the application of longitudinal reflectorized traffic lines on selected roads in the City. The roadways scheduled for painting are generally the arterial and collector roads in the urban area and all roads in the area. Edge line markings are applied as a safety measure in selected areas. The total length of markings has now reached 123,775 metres, including all centre line and edge line markings. The 2010 Pavement Marking Tender will be closing on March 3, 2010.

Current Studies

OPERATIONS CENTRE

The City's Water Yard is no longer deemed to be adequate for the present operations and Council has agreed that the location of a new facility be investigated, through presentations made to Strategic Planning and budget deliberations. Presently Phillips Engineering Limited has completed an Environmental Assessment Study for a new Port Colborne Operations Centre. The Environmental Assessment recommended that a new facility be constructed in the Stonebridge Drive - Port Colborne Industrial Park zone. Currently City Council is reviewing the feasibility of constructing a new size and is investigating funding opportunities.

INDUSTRIAL PARK

The City of Port Colborne is undertaking a study to assess potential industrial sites within the urban and rural boundaries of the City of Port Colborne. This will be a comprehensive engineering, design and infrastructure planning within the study area, and will involve a process of problem/opportunity identification, alternative solution identification, inventory of the natural, social and economic environments, an evaluation of alternative solutions and the selection of a preferred solution. Public consultation is a key component of the integrated planning and environmental assessment process. During the course of the study, the City will be required to provide information to the City of Port Colborne as they collect comments and information regarding the project in accordance with the requirements of the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act and the Planning Act. A public meeting will be scheduled at a key point in the project. The date, time and location of the meeting will be posted in the local newspapers.

EXTRANEOUS FLOW REDUCTION PROGRAM

In conjunction with the Regional Municipality of Niagara, the City of Port Colborne is committed to reducing unnecessary water treatment costs, the potential for basement flooding, and combined sewer overflows by reducing infiltration of storm water to the sanitary sewage collection and treatment system through its Extranous Flow Reduction Program. It is estimated that the City spends approximately \$1 Million each year treating storm water in the sanitary system. These costs are directly absorbed through the City's sewer and sewer rates. The City has initiated a Pilot Study in the area serviced by the Arena Sewage Pump Station to evaluate the most effective method of reducing infiltration of storm water to the sanitary sewer system. The Pilot Study is nearing completion and post flow monitoring of the area will be completed by the Fall of 2010. The Extranous Flow Reduction Program has been expanded to the Ormer Sewage Pump Station Area. The program involves inspection of private sanitary sewer systems to assess their condition and the presence of any improper connections, followed by recommendations and City funded improvements to remove sources of rainwater from the sanitary sewer system. There will be a Public Information Session on March 10, 2010 to update residents in the Ormer Study Area of the process to complete the study effectively. For more information, please visit the City website at: www.portcolborne.ca

Port Colborne's Drinking Water

ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

The City is required to prepare the Port Colborne Distribution System Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for the 2009 calendar year by February 28, 2010. This report can be accessed after February 28 on the City website: http://www.portcolborne.ca/page/water_quality_reports. Quality reports Copies of the report will also be available after February 28, free of charge, at the Public Works office at 1 King Street, or at the Engineering and Operations Department located on the 2nd Floor of City Hall, 66 Charlotte Street.

The City receives all of its drinking water from the Port Colborne Water Treatment Plant, operated by the Regional Municipality of Niagara. The Region is also required to prepare a report for the 2009 calendar year by February 28. The City is required to provide copies of the Region's report, free of charge to those who request it. Once the City receives the Region's report, it will be available at the above noted locations, or it can be accessed on the Region's website: <http://www.niagararegion.ca/living/water/Water-Quality-Reports.aspx>

LEAD SAMPLING PROGRAM UPDATE

The Ministry of Environment recently amended the lead sampling municipalities under Ontario Regulation 170/03. The amendments allow municipalities with consistently low lead concentrations to be eventually exempted from having to collect samples from residential and non-residential plumbing systems.

Since the lead sampling requirements were first implemented by the Ministry of Environment in December 2007, samples from homes and businesses in the City of Port Colborne have shown that there is not a concern in plumbing systems or in the distribution system. Therefore, with the new amendments coming into effect on December 14, 2009, the Ministry of Environment granted the City an exemption from the plumbing sampling requirements.

Therefore, the City must now collect four (4) samples from the distribution system twice annually, with the first set of samples collected between December 15 and April 15 with the second set of samples collected between June 15 and October 15. These samples will be sent to an accredited laboratory and analyzed for alkalinity and once every 36 months, samples will also be analyzed for lead during the two sampling periods. If lead is observed at a concentration greater than 0.01 mg/l, in any of these samples, the City will again be required to conduct sampling from both residential and non-residential plumbing.

A big thank you to the residents and businesses/organizations that, since December 2007, voluntarily allowed City staff to come to their homes/business and test the water for lead – your assistance helped ease our concerns and visitors to our community that our drinking water continues to be of the highest quality.

FLOW MONITORING PROJECT – WHAT'S THAT BIG BOX ON THE HYDRO POLE!

You may see some activity in different areas of the City over the next few weeks as the City's contractors begin installing the panels for the Flow Monitoring Project.

As indicated a couple of issues ago in the effort to curb unaccounted for water loss within the City's distribution system and reduce costs, the City is launching a Flow Monitoring Project. This project uses wireless technology, together with the Region's SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) programming to monitor, in real-time, the water usage throughout the distribution system. When operational later this spring, Staff will be able to determine if more water than is flowing to a particular area of the distribution system and will be able to investigate and determine if a leak has occurred. This 'real response' system will allow staff to identify potential leaks in a timely manner and reduce the amount of unaccounted for water loss within the system.

There are five panels being installed on hydro poles to monitor the flow of water entering each "zone" of the distribution

system. There are currently panels at each location; however, the new wireless technology that the City is using meant that larger panels were required to contain the equipment. Each panel measures approximately 11 m tall by 0.75 m wide, and a small antenna will be attached to the top of each pole to send the information from the flow meter to the Fire Station Tower where an antenna there will send the signal to the Port Colborne Water Treatment Plant. Additionally, there will be three temporary solar powered panels that will be installed around the City for short periods of time to track water usage in a particular area of the distribution system. All the data from the flow monitoring stations, together with the Region's SCADA information will be accessed remotely by City Staff and evaluated to determine areas of concern.

MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT DRINKING WATER SYSTEM INSPECTION

In November 2009, the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) conducted an annual scheduled inspection of the Drinking Water System. The MOE is required to conduct at least one scheduled inspection of each drinking water system in the province annually – they may also conduct unannounced inspections. Based on the City's high ratings over the past three years, the City was selected for a "focused" inspection, where the Inspector conducted an in-depth examination of certain regulatory requirements.

Once again, even with the "focused" aspect of the inspection "digging deeper" into the City operations, the Inspector found no issues with the City's water records, procedures or sample results, and our Drinking Water System was again given an Inspection Rating of 100%! The Inspector made some minor, mostly administrative, recommendations or improving our operations and Staff are in the midst of evaluating and implementing the recommendations, demonstrating our continued commitment to meeting and exceeding the applicable regulations.

Congratulations to our Water Department staff who continue to maintain, monitor and operate the Drinking Water System in accordance with the regulations and standards, to ensure the residents and businesses in Port Colborne receive safe drinking water.

DRINKING WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The implementation of our Quality Management System in accordance with the Drinking Water Quality Management Standard (Standard) continues to move forward. All Operating Authority staff, Engineering and Operations staff have been trained in the Quality Management System, and our Internal Audit Team is busy about every month, auditing different areas of our daily activities as they pertain to providing drinking water. So far, our Audit Team is revealing that we have some gaps between our procedures and our activities, so we are working to ensure that we "say what we do, and do what we say" to ensure continued conformance to the Standard. In September, the City was officially accredited by the Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB). This accreditation means the CGSB audited the City's documentation and determined it to be in conformance to the Standard.

MUNICIPAL DRINKING WATER LICENSE

In October, the City became one of a handful of municipalities in the province to be issued a Municipal Drinking Water License and a Drinking Water Works Permit. The new license and permit have simplified the operation and upgrading of the drinking water system. The final step in complying with the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002, is the preparation and submission of a Financial Plan for the Distribution System, detailing how the City will fund the drinking water system to ensure the safe operation and upgrading of the drinking water system. The final step in complying with the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002, is the preparation and submission of a Financial Plan for the Distribution System, detailing how the City will fund the drinking water system to ensure the safe operation and upgrading of the drinking water system. The final step in complying with the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002, is the preparation and submission of a Financial Plan for the Distribution System, detailing how the City will fund the drinking water system to ensure the safe operation and upgrading of the drinking water system.

Province Needs To Pay Attention To Health Care Services In Niagara

Throughout the past year, the City of Port Colborne has worked extremely hard in doing our part.

WE NOW DEMAND THAT THE PROVINCE DO THEIRS

Within the City of Port Colborne we have incorporated a new corporation (South Niagara Health Care Corporation) to look after the best interests of our residents. In particular, the corporation is responsive to Physician Recruitment, Retention, and Education, the enhancement of Community Based Primary Health Care and re-establishing Emergency/Acute Health Care services.

IN THE LAST YEAR OUR TEAM HAS...

HIP discussions continue with area doctors, the LHIN, NHS and Ministry:

- Presentation of a "Made In Port Colborne" solution for Rural-Small Hospital/Emergency Rooms to Minister Caplan.
- Ongoing discussions with LHIN, NHS re: standards in UCC – i.e. gilescopes, suture rooms, lighting, Input for renovations etc.

Recruited new medical professionals:

- Dr. Jason King began Family Medicine Practice at 57 Charlotte St.
- Dr. Brenda Rempel, Endocrinologist started her full-time practice at 248 Kilgus Street – the only endocrinologist in Niagara.
- Dr. Emilio Raimondo, Cardiologist, began to see patients on a part-time basis at Mapleview Clinic. He now also does Holter Monitor and Echocardiography testing at Port Medical Pharmacy's suite of clinical office space.
- Dr. Mario Ventresca, Ophthalmologist, re-establishes his practice in Port Colborne - relocates to 248 Kilgus Street.

New, enhanced Community Based Primary Health Care:

- Continuing dialogue with LHIN re: CHC... meeting with new ED of CHC, Board of Directors.



**SOUTH NIAGARA
HEALTH CARE
CORPORATION**

As the SNHCC enters 2010 with a full board of directors and programming in place, we encourage all citizens of South Niagara to become members. We have accomplished so much already, and plan to continue to strategically plan our own clinical services plan that best meet the needs of the citizens of South Niagara.

The following documents are available online and at City Hall in Port Colborne:

- LHIN Clinical Services Plan
- Hospital Improvement Plan
- SNHCC Educational Forums
- Mayor Vance Badaway's Update on Health Care Services
- Presentation: The Health Story of Port Colborne/Warfield

MEETINGS OF THE SNHCC ARE ADVERTISED IN THE CITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PORTCOLBORNE.CA. CLICK ON THE LINK UNDER HEALTH UPDATES

All citizens of South Niagara are encouraged to attend and all are encouraged to become members.

**ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT
Joanne Ferraocoli at 288-686-3097 or
joanne.ferraocoli@portcolborne.ca**

- Temporary site chosen for CHC, Dr. Jason St. Hilaire begins rostering.
- Health Promoter hired for Port Colborne, Lori Kleinsmith.
- Port Medical Pharmacy opens, in collaboration with Dr. Christian Proulx and Dr. Brenda Rempel, providing home care pharmacy needs and diabetic teaching.

Providing Health Education:

- Rural Medicine Week is a success as University of Ottawa students vote Port Colborne the best Rural Medical Week location in Ontario.
- We had 17 medical students come through Port Colborne in 2009, 3 times the number of students in the past.
- Dr. Amanda Bell is accepted to be a preceptor for Degroote School of Medicine Family Medicine Resident. Port Colborne will have residents full-time in Port for 2 years at a time. This follows successful teaching of Medical students (clerks) for academic teaching at City Hall due to a lack of teaching space at Degroote. A collaborative effort between Dr. Bell, Dr. Karl Stobbe and the City of Port Colborne.
- We had our first Physician Assistant do her clinical rotation in Port Colborne. The first class will graduate from McMaster in April 2010.

Establishing Partnerships:

- Ongoing discussions with MOH to establish a satellite FHT in Port Colborne. Dr. Halbo Xu is granted permission from MOH to establish FHO at the Port Colborne General Hospital on the first floor. He begins to see patients in renovated suite Dec. 7, 2009. Will grow to an FHT as rostering grows and UCC renovations are completed at Hospital site.
- South Niagara Health Care Corporation continues to have educational forums bi-monthly for public, including the differences between the differing types of Primary Health Care that are now offered in Port Colborne, with plans for further forums on 'The Health Story of Port Colborne' and 'The Aging Population of Port Colborne'.

February 2010 – The Premier and the Minister's (Health and Long Term Care) attention to Niagara's Health Care needs is long overdue.

- It has been discussed that as the Niagara Health System has begun construction of a new hospital and regional care centre, they are using Superbuild Funds to bridge their operating cash requirements.
- Construction costs will create additional pressures on the hospital's cash flow as they will no longer be able to do this.
- The financial institution will not extend their credit without guarantees from the LHIN/Ministry.
- The NHS is offering the Hospital Improvement Plan that offers limited savings and the NHS would require significant capital funds to implement the restructuring plan.
- Enablers that were to be put in place before the HIP's implementation have yet to be put in place.
- The LHIN does not have the resources to address the NHS's financial situation.
- Gridlock continues throughout the system, including 5-6 hour off load delays at three Emergency Departments.

- Patients throughout the region do not have equal access to acute care services.
- Planned renovations for Port Colborne's UCC have yet to move forward, in turn, creating a hold up with the appropriate delivery of Urgent Care, better working conditions for the Hospital's employees, and an expansion of our Family Health Team.
- Region infuses \$3.1 million to enhance EMS because of changes made at the Port Colborne and Port Erie Emergency Departments. These dollars should be coming from the province.
- Functional protocols have yet to be addressed or solidified between the NHS and EMS.
- We await eagerly, for a report from the Ombudsman.
- We await eagerly, for a decision by the coroner to call for an inquest into the death of Don Davis.
- We await eagerly, for recommendations from the province's Rural and Small Community Health Panel
 - Is there a financial infusion needed for Niagara?
 - As outlined in the resolution passed by this Council at our last meeting – is bad management the cause of Niagara's current health care crisis?

The City of Port Colborne is on record supporting the request as per section 81 of the Public Hospitals Act that the Lieutenant Governor in Council step in and appoint an investigator to investigate and report on the quality of the management and administration at the Niagara Health System.

In all fairness to both the province and the NHS, the investigation should be first and foremost to answer both questions, followed by proceeding with the appropriate actions as the NHS residents begin receiving equal access to all health care services.

- If the province is satisfied with the current administration, a financial infusion is needed to satisfy the earlier mentioned investments identified.
- If the province is not satisfied with the current administration, make the appropriate adjustments, and let's move forward to satisfy the earlier mentioned investments needed.

Either way, the Premier and Minister must give Niagara their full attention immediately. If not, they are ignoring their responsibility to ensure that the people of Niagara receive the highest quality of health care we deserve.

Throughout the past year, the City of Port Colborne has worked extremely hard in doing our part. We now demand that the province do theirs.

It is time the Premier and Minister of Health extend their attention to the affordability of delivering health care services within the Region of Niagara in 2010.

I am currently making arrangements for another meeting with the Premier and the Minister to go over the above mentioned.

With kind regards, I remain,
Yours truly,

Vance M. Badaway
Mayor, City of Port Colborne

Bridges

Community Health Centre

Fort Erie and Port Colborne/Wainfleet

Bridges Community Health Centre (CHC) is a non-profit, community-governed organization providing full-range primary health care, health promotion, and community development services using an inter-professional team of health care providers. Our approach to community health includes addressing the broad factors that influence health, such as education, employment, social support, and the environment. Bridges CHC operates two sites to serve the communities of Port Colborne, Wainfleet, and Fort Erie. Our Interim Port Colborne/Wainfleet site is now open, fully functioning, and accepting clients. We are located at 508 Steele St. in the Port Village Plaza, open Monday to Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm. Our permanent location on King St. is under construction. Our Interim Fort Erie location at 1485 Garrison Rd. is also continuing to accept new clients. Please drop by our office for a client intake form or call 289-479-5017 for more information.

Our local priority client populations are:

- families & individuals with a low income
- seniors

- children & youth
- newcomers to Canada

We will also presently accept any local client who is without a family physician or who has a family physician located outside of the community and would prefer to receive local health care services. Clients who are without a health card or I.D. are welcomed.

Our Port Colborne/Wainfleet inter-professional team includes:

- Dr. Jason St. Hilaire, family physician
- Dr. Barry Jones, consulting psychiatrist
- Christine Fransen, nurse practitioner
- Kim Fazio, registered nurse
- Debbie MacCulloch, mental health nurse/program manager
- Linda Ressler, social worker
- Maureen Gall, CHC dietitian
- Marcie Turpel, registered nurse, certified diabetes nurse educator
- Meagan Sullivan, diabetes dietitian
- Lori Kleinsmith, health promoter
- Gail Sharp, medical secretary
- Kim Bishop, medical secretary

Referrals for local residents to our mental health and diabetes programs may come from outside physicians and our health promotion programs are available to the community. All other services are accessible once a client joins our roster.

We are continually establishing partnerships with community agencies and organizations to further enhance our programs and services. Examples of our current community health promotion programs and community development include:

- Quit smoking workshop
- Quit smoking support group (first session March 1st, held at Port Colborne General Hospital)
- Nutrition and healthy eating programs (i.e. Incredible Edibles, supermarket tours, Good Food Box)
- Community mobilization to form a citizens group to address Active Transportation (making our community more walkable and bikeable)
- Diabetes group education sessions (3rd Wednesday of the month, held at Friends Over 55)
- Chronic disease self care management program
- Chronic pain management program
- Caregiver support group
- Participation with local coalitions and organizations such as Safe Communities Port Colborne, Port Cars, Community Living Port Colborne-Wainfleet and EVERY KID in Our Community Port Colborne-Wainfleet
- and more!

For updated information on our programs and services, please check out our newly launched website:

www.bridgeschc.ca

BRIDGES COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE
- EVERY ONE MATTERS

AN UPDATE ON: Health Care Services In Port Colborne!

WHAT IS AN URGENT CARE CENTRE?

Urgent Care Centres treat many illnesses that need to be seen after-hours when physicians' offices are closed. Port Colborne's UCC is open 24/7.

WHAT DO THEY TREAT?

The UCC can treat you if you feel unwell or if you have a sprain, fracture, require sutures or have a lump or bump (less acute types of illness or injury).

WHAT IF I AM REALLY SICK OR IF IT IS A SERIOUS EMERGENCY:

If you visit the UCC and are critically ill or injured, you can be stabilized and treated by emergency trained physicians until you are able to be safely moved to another facility that is better equipped to treat your illness. If you are experiencing chest pain, having difficulty breathing or stroke symptoms, call 911 immediately.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

You will be treated by a physician, and either told to follow-up with your family physician, referred to home, or transferred to another NHS facility.

WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE A FAMILY DOCTOR?

If you attend the UCC and do not have a family physician, you will be encouraged to roster with the Family Health Organization or the Community Health Centre.

New Community Health Centre (CHC) & New Family Health Organization (FHO)

There are many similarities between these two models of community based health care. You can sign up to a family physician at either the Community Health Centre (CHC) or the Family Health Team (FHT) both provide team based and collaborative primary medical care. Whether you sign up at the CHC or the FHT is a personal decision that should be made between you and the physician at both clinics.

BELOW ARE SOME SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES.

What new services are now available in Port Colborne?

The CHC has a nurse practitioner, dietitian, diabetes educator,

and a family physician available to provide care to you.

CHC's focus on programs and services to address economic and social conditions that can affect health such as income level, access to education, employment etc.

Many wonderful new programs are being developed by the Health Promoters in collaboration with the attending physician at the CHC such as the Good Food Box, which supplies healthy fruits and vegetables at low cost to families to encourage healthy eating habits.

Can anyone sign up?

The CHC works with other service agencies in Port Colborne, such as Port Cars.

The CHC generally is targeting people who have not been able to access primary care such as inner city families, youth, people with mental health issues, the elderly, newcomers to Canada and diabetics.

The CHC will not turn away patients who do not have a family physician.

Who do they report to and how are they funded?

Community Health Centres report to and are funded by the Local Health Integration Networks (LHIN).

How do I sign up?

The CHC is located in the Port Village Plaza. The permanent location on King Street is under construction.

**Port Village Plaza,
506 Steele Street, Port Colborne
(905) 835-7756**

The FHO also brings many new services to Port Colborne, such as a social worker, dietitian, nurse practitioner, pharmacist, and respiratory therapist to work alongside a family physician.

The FHO physician, Dr. Xu, hopes to roster at least 1000 patients to his FHT, and the more services can be added and more physicians can be hired to be on-site at the clinic at the Port Colborne Hospital as demand rises.

Patients requiring X-rays and Lab services provided by the NHS can access these services directly through this clinic.

Dr. Xu is also able to treat minor sprains, bumps and sprains.

The FHO has no target population and there are no limitations on who can roster.

Family Health Teams report to and are funded by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.

The Family Health Organization will be on-site at the PORT COLBORNE GENERAL HOSPITAL IN EARLY 2010.
**Registration forms are available at Port Colborne City Hall,
66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne
(905) 835-2900**

The City of Port Colborne continues to work to ensure that current health care services are maintained and new services become available to the residents in our community.



Port Colborne Votes: 2010 Municipal Election

On October 25, 2010, eligible electors in the City of Port Colborne will cast their ballots for the offices of Mayor, City Councillors, Regional Councillor and Separate and Public English and French School Board Trustees. This election will determine the local government representatives for a four year term beginning on December 1, 2010 and ending on November 30, 2014.

Nominations in the prescribed form are being received for the following offices:

- (a) **MAYOR** (one [1] to be elected at large)
- (b) **REGIONAL COUNCILLOR** (one [1] to be elected at large)
- (c) **COUNCILLOR WARD ONE** (two [2] to be elected by ward vote)
- COUNCILLOR WARD TWO** (two [2] to be elected by ward vote)
- COUNCILLOR WARD THREE** (two [2] to be elected by ward vote)
- COUNCILLOR WARD FOUR** (two [2] to be elected by ward vote)
- (d) **TRUSTEE FOR THE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA** (one [1] to be elected at large by the English Language Separate School electors of the municipalities of the City of Port Colborne and the Town of Fort Erie)
- (e) **TRUSTEE FOR THE NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD** (one [1] to be elected at large by the English Language Separate School electors of the municipalities of the City of Port Colborne, the Town of Fort Erie and the Township of Whitchurch)
- (f) **TRUSTEE FOR THE CONSEIL SCOLAIRE DE DISTRICT DU CENTRE-SUD-OUEST** (one [1] to be elected at large by the French Language Public School electors of the municipalities of the City of Port Colborne, the Town of Fort Erie, the City of Niagara Falls, the Town of Pelham, the City of Thorold, the Township of Whitchurch and the City of Welland)
- (g) **TRUSTEE FOR THE CONSEIL SCOLAIRE DE DISTRICT CATHOLIQUE CENTRE-SUD** (one [1] to be elected at large by the French Language Separate School electors of the municipalities of the City of Port Colborne, the Town of Fort Erie, the Town of Pelham, the Township of Whitchurch and the City of Welland)

Nominations for the offices indicated in (a), (b), and (d) above shall be filed at the office of the Clerk, City of Port Colborne, 66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne, Ontario.

Nominations for the offices indicated in (e) and (g) shall be filed at the office of the Clerk, Town of Fort Erie, 1 Municipal Drive, Fort Erie, Ontario.

Nominations for the offices indicated in (f) and (h) shall be filed at the office of the Clerk, City of Welland, 40 East Main Street, Welland.

The nomination period for the 2010 Municipal Election starts on January 4, 2010 and ends on September 10, 2010. Nominations forms may be submitted to the City Clerk on any day from January 4, 2010 and before September 4, 10, 2010, during normal office hours, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday or on a Nomination Day, Friday, September 10, 2010 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

For more information please visit the City of Port Colborne website at www.portcolborne.ca.

Ashley Grigg
City Clerk and Returning Officer
City of Port Colborne
(905) 835-2900 ext. 108
ashleygrigg@portcolborne.ca
66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne, Ontario L3K 3C8.

PORT COLBORNE HISTORICAL & MARINE MUSEUM

ALL ABOARD

In celebration of the Canadian Naval Centennial Anniversary the Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum is continuing with a fundraising effort begun when John Redick generously donated \$500.00 towards the building of a model of the Castle Class Corvette HMCS Humberton. This model will be featured in the May exhibit, "Firing a Royal Salute" highlighting HMCS Port Colborne and HMCS Humberton and marine archives and artifacts related to our nautical history.

If you would like to be part of this historic event, all donors to the project will receive recognition in the exhibit, an income tax receipt and an invitation to the official presentation being made to the Museum from the Canadian Navy. Please contact the Museum for details.

MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

Dear Member/Friend,

There are several ways we are celebrating the year 2010 at the Museum:

1. The 35 year anniversary of the museum
2. The 100 year anniversary of the Canadian Navy
3. New displays in the Museum
4. Planning the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812

You will become a part of these events as a member of the City of Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum.

There could be a new way for you to stay informed about the Museum's activities. You may choose, as a member, to have the Newsletter sent to you through "eSpectacle." While it does not replace a handheld copy for future reference, it can be saved, then retrieved. It is also economical. We would like to know your opinion.

Please check the appropriate box on the membership form when you return it with your fee/donation, keeping the card.

The Membership Committee has been challenged to get 35 new Life Members in honour of the 35th Anniversary of the Museum. Perhaps this is the year for you to become a life member!

Looking forward to seeing you at the membership preview reception in late April.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Johnson,
Membership Chair

ARCHIVES AWARENESS WEEK

As part of Archives Awareness Week in April and lasting until the end of May, the L.R. Wilson Heritage Research Archives will feature a special exhibit on loan from the Ontario Provincial Archives. Titled "A Lifetime – Day by Day, Five Women and Their Diaries", this unique look at the personal lives of Victorian women will be supplemented with biographies and photos of clothing of Port Colborne's own "historic heroines", namely Florence Nell Young and Arabella Williams. Also planning on being featured is a recently discovered and very unique land deed highlighting the restrictions placed on the legal rights of Victorian women.

280 King Street, Port Colborne ON L3K 5X8
905-834-7604 email: museum@portcolborne.ca



2010 DOG LICENSES FINAL NOTICE For Discounted Rates

City of Port Colborne 2010 Dog Licenses are due March 15th.

The following discounted rates apply for licenses purchased on or before March 15th.

Un-Neutered/Un-spayed Dogs \$25.00
Neutered/Spayed Dogs (proof required) \$15.00

After March 15th the regular rates of \$35.00 and \$25.00 apply.

TAGS MAY BE PURCHASED AT:

- City Hall, 66 Charlotte Street
- Independent Discount Pet Supply, 730 Main Street West
- Pet Valu, Westside Place Plaza, Westside Road
- The Port Colborne Animal Shelter, 1080 Elm Street

Dog owners who fail to purchase a dog license before the due date are liable for a set fine under Part 1 Provincial Offences Act.

Peter Senese
Director of Community & Corporate
Services and Treasurer

calling all candidates

INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICE OR SCHOOL BOARD?

The City of Port Colborne, in conjunction with all of the 12 area municipalities within the Regional Municipality of Niagara, will be hosting a Niagara Area Candidates Information Session to be held

Date: Wednesday April 28, 2010

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Location: MacBain Community Centre – 2nd Floor

7150 Hurontario Road, Niagara Falls

All Registered Candidates and those individuals thinking of running in the 2010 Municipal Election on Monday, October 25, 2010 are cordially invited to attend.

This information session will be provided by staff from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and will provide information to candidates and the public regarding the municipal election process, including rules and regulations regarding campaign finances. Please note that this is not a Candidates debate forum.

There are changes to the Municipal Election Act, 1996 that all Candidates need to familiarize themselves with. This session is designed to give Candidates the most current information from the legislation and the requirements you need to know for the upcoming municipal elections.

For more information regarding the 2010 Municipal Election, please visit the City's website at www.portcolborne.ca

ASHLEY GRIGG
City Clerk and Returning Officer,
City of Port Colborne
(905) 835-2900 ext. 108

Farmers' MARKET

THERE WILL
BE NO FARMERS'
MARKET ON
Good Friday,
April 2nd, 2010.

FARMERS' MARKET
WILL BE HELD ON
Thursday, April 1st, 2010

Ashley Grigg, City Clerk

REBATES OFFERED TO INSTALL A WATER EFFICIENT TOILET!

Through the initiative of the Environmental Advisory Committee, Port Colborne is currently offering \$50 rebates to residents of single family homes who purchase and install an approved water efficient toilet in their home. There is a limit of one toilet rebate per residence and the approved toilet must have been purchased after January 1, 2009. There is a limited number of rebates available each year. Rebates will be issued on a first come, first served basis. For more details visit www.portcolborne.ca.

The Port Colborne Public Library has a great line-up of activities for children during March Break! Sign up soon to avoid disappointment!

Learn About Birds of Prey with the Canadian Raptors Conservancy

The Canadian Raptors Conservancy will be visiting the Library with a live demonstration to teach us all about raptors and their important role in nature. For all ages.

Tuesday, March 16, 1:00-2:00 pm
Venue: L.R. Wilson Archives Building
Cost: \$4.00. Buy tickets in advance at the Library.

Story Time

With Derek Miller, Port Colborne's Town Crier for children ages 6 and under.

Tuesday, March 16 & Thursday, March 18, 10:00-11:00 am. FREE.

Crafts with Carol

Make a "Bunny" plaque (acrylic on wood).

For children ages 7 to 12.
Monday, March 15, 10 am-12:00 pm
Cost: \$10.00. Pre-register at the Library.

Kids Knit with Vicki Fretz

Learn how to knit a scarf.

For ages 9 to 13.
Monday, March 15 and
Thursday, March 18, 1:00-3:00 pm
Cost: \$10.00
(pays for 2 classes and materials)
Pre-register at the Library.

Extraordinary Experiments

Make a craft and try your hand at some fun science experiments.

For ages 7 to 12.
Wednesday, March 17, 10:00-11:30 am
Cost: \$2.00 (all materials supplied)
Pre-register at the Library.

March Break!

Learn Dog Tricks & Dog Safety with Celine's K-9

With Emily and dog trainer Celine Loguasto. Bring your favourite stuffed toy and learn how to teach your dog tricks, plus learn dog safety techniques. For ages 8 to 13.

Friday, March 19, 1:00-2:30 pm
Cost: \$1.00 donation to the Humane Society
Pre-register at the Library.

Warm Up to Reading with a New Best Friend: a St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog will be visiting the Library

Therapy dogs are a great way to help make children feel comfortable learning to read. A St. John Ambulance therapy dog is scheduled to visit the Library and is very happy that he will be listening to children read his stories. Sign up soon if you want to share your favourite story with him. For ages 5 to 13.
Saturday, March 20, 10:30-11:30 am
Cost: Free. Pre-register at the Library

Ghost Busterz

A workshop on the science of ghost hunting. With Vanessa Hurst. For ages 10 to 14.
Wednesday, March 17, 2:00-3:30 pm
Cost: \$5.00. Pre-register at the Library.

Cartooning Workshop

with Peace Art's Vanessa Hurst

Learn cartooning basics. For ages 8 to 14.
Thursday, March 18, 10:00-11:30 am
Cost: \$5.00. Pre-register at the Library.

Yoga with Nadia

For ages 8 to 12.
Tuesday, March 16, 10:30-11:30 am
For ages 4 to 7:
Friday, March 19, 10:00-10:45 am
Cost: \$3.00.
Bring a towel, blanket or yoga mat.
Pre-register at the Library.

"Ahoy Matey!"

The Port Colborne Museum invites you to dress like a pirate and visit Treasure Island. Sing sea shanties, make pirate crafts and enjoy refreshments!
Thursday, March 18, 1:00-4:00 pm
For ages 6 to 8. Cost: \$3.00
Venue: L.R. Wilson Archives Building
Buy tickets in advance at the Library.

PINK WARRIORS TO HOLD FUNDRAISERS AT THE LIBRARY

The Pink Warriors are a group of Port Colborne women dedicated to raising funds for women's cancer research. Upcoming events at the Library include:

Port Colborne Announces WINNER OF HOLIDAY PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

The votes have been tallied and the results are in. PCOTOC is proud to announce the winner of its first holiday photo contest.

Port Colborne Economic and Tourism Development Corporation, congratulate Michelle Mason for having the winning photo. Her photo of Santa arriving by helicopter not only celebrates the spirit of the holiday season but captures a long-standing tradition in Port Colborne. Throughout the holiday season, residents and visitors to Port Colborne were invited to submit photographs of their favorite holiday moments to PCOTOC which were judged by staff. For her winning photo, Ms. Mason will be recognized further at the March 19, 2010 City Council Meeting where she will be awarded with a special certificate and receive a \$100.00 gift card to be used at a local business.

The Port Colborne Holiday Photo Contest officially launched on December 27, 2009, is the latest initiative by PCOTOC designed to bring more awareness to events happening in the city and the overall beauty of Port Colborne.

Our current Winter Photo Contest which is running from January 25th to March 15th, 2010, provides an opportunity for photographers to capture the uniqueness of Port Colborne during the winter, as well as provide a way for participants to display their creativity and provide the city with other opportunities to showcase Port Colborne.

The contest is open to residents and visitors to Port Colborne and photographers of all ages and abilities are invited to submit entries. Photo contest submissions are being accepted until March 15th, 2010. Up to five photographs may be submitted per person.

Bake Sale/Garage Sale

at the Library on March 22, 2010.

Sports Cards & Collectibles Show and Sale

at the Library on April 10, 2010.

For more information, please contact Pat by phone at 905-835-0371 or by email at pinkwarriors.portcolborne@hotmail.com.



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MARCH BREAK – FREE SWIM SPONSORED BY TIM HORTONS

Dates: Monday, March 15 until Friday, March 19, 2010

Times: 1:00 until 3:00 pm

Swim Lesson Registration: March 25, 2010

Register on line: starting at 12:01 am

Register in Person: starting at 8:00 am until 4:00 pm

Registrations will be accepted by phone, in person or on line after registration date

SWIM LESSONS START:

April 12 until May 13, 2010 – twice per week
Monday and Wednesday OR Tuesday and Thursday

May 17 until June 21, 2010 – twice per week
Monday and Wednesday OR Tuesday and Thursday

Tip for Photo Submitters:

• Photos can be of any location in Port Colborne

- Great submissions include:
 - Mother Nature – Wildlife, landscapes, water, trees and plants in a winter setting.
 - Winter events – indoor or outdoor activities related to any specific winter event.
 - Kids in Winter – children in a winter setting.
 - Outdoor Winter Sports – athletics or sporting activity in an outdoor winter setting.

Get your camera on the highest zoom/lens/extension to send us the best quality photos. Avoid sending blurry, under or over exposed photos. People in photos must have consented to their picture being taken, or be not recognizable (in the background).

In March the winning photo will be selected and featured on the Port Colborne website and other print marketing produced for the City of Port Colborne. As well, the winner of the contest will receive a \$100 gift card for use at a local business.

There is no entry fee, however, pictures submitted must be high-resolution, digital format and by submitting, entrants give PCOTOC permission to use the photos for promotional purposes.

Complete contest rules, information and entry forms can be found on the City of Port Colborne website at www.portcolborne.ca

VENDOR ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

The Port Colborne Economic and Tourism Development Corporation is pleased to welcome Bryan Theal as the Corporation's new Vendor Enhancement Coordinator. The position calls for Theal to begin the process of strengthening the quality and quantity of vendors to the festivals, therefore increasing visitor attendance and heightening the overall atmosphere of the festivals.

This is a three-month-long project, funded by the Community Adjustment Fund with the help of South Niagara Community Futures Development Corporation. The objective of this project is to enhance Port Colborne Festivals by improving the quality of products and number of festival food and retail vendors, thereby elevating the status of the activities. One of the goals of the project will be to investigate the potential to attract new and unique marine-themed vendors. This will raise the level of service provided by the festivals and allow for a targeted strategy thereby enhancing the economic impact for the local businesses and service providers, and celebrating the marine heritage and future of Port Colborne.

As the trend towards culinary tourism continues to move forward, the festivals are part of a market that is beneficial to the culinary artists and the community as we better position Port Colborne as a destination. Research is being conducted to evaluate the possibility of creating an area within the festival grounds which will focus on heritage methods of preparation and presentation of food, with an emphasis on regional and agricultural products. This will be placed on fresh, local produce and the processed "fast food" that is traditionally available.

Traditional vendor areas on West Street at the Canal Days Festival have been subject to complaints from festival attendees; the food and retail products are in need of enhancement. Appropriate vendors will be encouraged to participate in Flavours of Niagara International Food, Wine and Jazz Festival and Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival when possible, with the possibility of a future multi-festival packaging structure.

Other job tasks will consist of researching festivals and events in additional markets (including Toronto, 905 corridor, Kitchener - Waterloo, Guelph) throughout early 2010 as a means to identify best practices as well as research and explore the potential for festival merchandise creation and sales as a means to put Port Colborne in the marketplace at these events.

Port Colborne Tourism Signage

The Port Colborne Economic and Tourism Development Corporation is currently undertaking a tourism signage project that will see a new network of trailblazer signs throughout the city.

The main objective of a standardized tourism signage network is to provide visitors with easy and understandable access to tourism related destinations. A well-placed and well designed signage system along with the established signage leading to the community from the QEW and Highways 406 and 140, would make navigation for visitors within Port Colborne easier.

An effective trailblazing system has direct impact on the satisfaction of an individual tourist or group travelling through an area. A proficient signage system has the potential for significant impact to the visitor experience and to the local businesses.

In 2007/2008 the City of Port Colborne partnered with the Town of Midland on the Ontario Government's "First Impressions Program". The partnership involved a group from Midland travelling to Port Colborne to record its members first impressions of our community and a group

from Port Colborne travelling to Midland to record our impressions of their community. The Midland group identified enhanced signage as one of the top areas of items requiring improvement in Port Colborne.

The need for a correct, up-to-date and complete network of signs is also identified in Port Colborne's tourism strategy. Recognizing this PCETDC applied to the Community Adjustment Fund through South Niagara Community Futures Development Corporation and received funding to begin this project.

The primary objective of this project is to create a trailblazing network that necessitates a clear and recognizable image that can be translated easily between signs of different sizes and functions, also working to strengthen the unique character that defines our city while meeting the requirements of the travelling public, the tourism industry and government. Sign design, size, concepts, locations and directional information will be developed based on an assessment of both tourist needs and existing signage.

INSTALL SMOKE ALARMS! IT'S THE LAW!

Most fatal fires occur at night when people are asleep. Often, victims never wake up.

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LANDLORDS:

It is the responsibility of landlords to ensure their rental properties comply with the law.



TENANTS:

If you are a tenant of a rental property and do not have the required number of smoke alarms, contact your landlord immediately. It is against the law for tenants to remove the batteries or tamper with the alarm in any way.

Failure to comply with the Fire Code smoke alarm requirements could result in a ticket for \$235 or a fine of up to \$50,000 for individuals or \$100,000 for Corporations.

If assistance is required to install your smoke alarm, please contact Port Colborne Fire and Emergency Services: 905-834-4512, Monday to Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

New Economic Development Databases ONLINE

The City of Port Colborne's website is about to have two exciting new features added, which will enhance the level of services available to residents, stakeholders, businesses, and investors. Funded through a Community Adjustment Fund provided by FedDev Ontario through the South Niagara Community Futures Development Corporation, these features have been in development for many months. The commercial and industrial real estate database and service-to-business and manufacturing directory will provide key strategic information about development sites, local industries, and services offered in Port Colborne.

The goal of the City's commercial and industrial real estate database is to provide single electronic access to the details about available commercial and industrial properties located within the city of Port Colborne. This database is built on

commercial and industrial listings from ICX.ca, the commercial real estate cousin of MLS.ca, as well as other local and regional sources about available real estate.

The service-to-business and manufacturing directory will provide user-friendly access to the details allowing businesses to identify business-to-business relationships with local suppliers of services to business. Business profiles include detailed information and product and service descriptions, to help local manufacturing and service to businesses companies market them to Port Colborne and beyond. This provides a new interface to information also found in print in the 2009-2010 Niagara Canada Business Directory.

These services will be of considerable assistance to Port Colborne businesses looking to expand, or for potential investors considering Port Colborne.

Not only is current real estate information listed, but information about existing companies including a description of products and services offered, and contact information is available on the same website. The City's website will become a one-stop source for business and real estate information. This will provide opportunities for augmenting local supply chains, and increase awareness of products and services available locally.

The availability of this information is under increasing demand from site selectors and business decision makers. However, the City of Port Colborne is among the first municipalities in Ontario to have these features available to the public on its website. These databases will serve as key marketing tools, and demonstrates Port Colborne as an investment ready destination for business expansion.

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For Group of 100 or more

■ POWERHOUSE PROJECT

Program reaches out to young carers

FROM PAGE 1

Today, the group begins a photography club called Through the Lens with April Jeffs, for teens aged 14 to 18.

"They learn a new hobby, it's a stress reliever and they can learn about the region in a social network."

The first two sessions will be held at the

Alzheimer Society in St. Catharines, followed by field trips across the region.

A sports blender kicks off April 21 in Welland at Ross Public School. Each Wednesday between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m., youngsters will learn a different sport.

Visit www.powerhouseproject.ca for details.

kforand@wellandtribune.ca

■ CHIROPRACTORS GET CRACKING FOR A CAUSE



KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo

The Chiropractic Associates of Port Colborne held a Doctors With A Heart day on Feb. 10 where patients could receive chiropractic treatment for a donation to the Humane Society. The event raised nearly \$1,200 and more than \$1,000 in pet food and products thanks to 160 patients. Doctors Scott Macpherson, Brent Moyer and David Salanki presented the funds to Ted Bettie, shelter manager.

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RECIPE of the Week

Mar. 5th to 18th

Our Port Country Pantry's

Carrot Banana Muffins

1. Preheat oven to 400 Degrees F. Spray 12 muffin cups with non-stick spray or use liners. In a large bowl combine dry ingredients and raisins.
2. In a medium bowl beat eggs lightly & combine with remaining ingredients. Add the moist mixture to the dry mixture all at once & stir just until moist but still lumpy. Fill prepared muffin cups $\frac{3}{4}$ full. Bake for 20 minutes.

Makes: 12 muffins

10% off our product ingredients

Whole Wheat Flour • All-Purpose Flour • Brown Sugar
Baking Powder • Baking Soda • Sea Salt • Nutmeg
• Ground Cloves • Raisins (Thompson or Sultana)

INGREDIENTS

1. $\frac{1}{2}$ cup Whole Wheat Flour
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup All-purpose Flour
2 tsp. Baking Powder
1 tsp. Baking Soda
 $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. Sea Salt
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. Nutmeg
 $\frac{1}{8}$ tsp. ground Cloves
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup Raisins
2. 2 Large eggs
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup lightly packed
Brown Sugar
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup vegetable oil
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. vinegar + milk
to equal $\frac{1}{2}$ cup
1 tsp. vanilla
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup mashed banana
1 cup grated carrot

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■ **SCHOOL LIFE:** Lakeshore culinary students serve the business community



KAESHA FORAND
Staff Photo
Lakeshore Catholic High School culinary students had the opportunity to showcase their skills during Wednesday night's Business After 5. Chamber president Mike Sloat and principal Danny DiLorenzo sample some of the tasty appetizers created by Miranda Levines, Stephanie Perdue, Chris Zimolag, Sean Forster and Michael Scime.

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■ PEOPLE PLACES: Readings at Roselawn

Authors' series a Port gem



George Duma
BY GEORGE

I've had the pleasure of covering the Readings at Roselawn Authors' Series this year for *The Tribune*. It's been a real treat, a labour of love, and I've met some intriguing people including Linden MacIntyre, the first author to read in the 2009-10 series back in September. I have admired MacIntyre for a very long time but it has been for his investigative journalism. As host of CBC's *Fifth Estate*, he has been involved in covering numerous excellent, insightful stories over the years and not only have I enjoyed his work, I've learned from it.

He's also an incredible author and storyteller, as the Roselawn audience found out last September and the book he read from, *The Bishop's Man*, ended up winning the 2009 Giller Prize about six weeks after his appearance here.

Then there was Catherine Gildiner, a hilarious lady who entertained the audience in December. Gildiner was born in Lewistown, N.Y. in the late 1940s and was raised there and in Niagara Falls, N.Y., where her father owned the main pharmacy downtown. She later spent her teen years in Amherst, a Buffalo suburb.

Her two autobiographical novels — *Too Close To The Falls*, which deals with her childhood, and *After The Falls*, which deals with her teen years and her early 20s — are wonderful reads, extremely entertaining. I actually went backwards with them, reading *After The Falls* first and I'm currently in the middle of *Too Close To The Falls*.

The Readings at Roselawn Authors' Series is now in its 15th year and series host William Thomas and his dedicated volunteers do an amazing job pulling this thing off year to year.

On the actual day of the reading, the usual dress is the author of the month comes down to Port from Toronto in the

afternoon with his or her publicist. Bill then takes them and some guests out to Lucy's for dinner before returning to Roselawn shortly before the 8 p.m. starting time for the reading itself.

Once they arrive at Roselawn, I meet Bill and the author down in the Green Room, where I get about five minutes to pose the author, get my photographs, pass along my best wishes for a good reading, and get out of the way.

Bill is then introduced by Marty Parr, who does the sound and lighting each month. Bill carries out his master of ceremonies duties, cracking a couple of jokes, thanking sponsors and that sort of thing, before introducing the author to what is normally a packed house.

I sit up in the booth with Marty. Right behind him and the sound and light board is a large table up against the back wall. I make myself comfortable on the table with my back against the wall. I have a bird's-eye view of the stage and it's easy for me to take notes with my writing pad against my knees.

The whole exercise is an excellent routine and it works well for everybody.

Last week, however, was a bit different.

I called Bill Wednesday afternoon, the day before the Thursday evening reading, just to see how he was doing.

Author M.G. Vassanji was scheduled to be the special guest the next evening, reading from his book *A Place Within: Rediscovering India*. It won the 2009 Governor General's Award for non-fiction.

Bill sounded awful when I called, with a really bad cold. I doubted he would make it out Thursday night. We exchanged pleasantries and hung up.

When I got to Roselawn Thursday, Bill was in fact absent. He just couldn't do it; the virus knocked him down. Long-time volunteer Robbie Miesner filled in as the master of ceremonies.

I, too, dinner said I cancelled which was just as well. Author Vassanji didn't make it into town until 7 p.m. so he had a snack and a drink in the Green Room and had time to go over his readings. Even though



GEORGE DUMA InPort News Photos

Left: Author Catherine Gildiner signs copies of her books in Roselawn's Green Room this past December before entertaining the audience with her readings. Signed books are sold in the lobby following each reading at Roselawn.

Right: Novelist M.G. Vassanji goes over his readings in Roselawn's Green Room last Thursday prior to going on stage.

the routine was disrupted, everything still fell into place.

Having said that, the Roselawn theatre was only about half full. The Canadian Women's Hockey team was playing the U.S. for gold that evening and it was obvious many Authors' Series patrons elected to stay home and cheer on our women rather than venture out for Vassanji's reading. In fact, when Marty announced, prior to the reading, that Canada was leading 2-0, the cheer from the audience shook the rafters.

Hey, I get the thought process for those who stayed home: There will be many more Roselawn readings coming our way but an Olympic gold-medal hockey game happens once every four years. Priorities.

This month, March 25 to be exact, will see B.C.'s Annabel Lyon grace the Roselawn stage.

Bill says her debut novel, *The Golden Mean*, came out of nowhere and was nominated last year for all three of Canada's big literary prizes — The Giller, The Writer's Trust and the Governor General's Award.

"(It's a) compelling fictional account of the relationship between Aristotle and his star pupil, Alexander The Great," Bill says, "and it won the \$25,000 Rogers Writer's Trust Fiction Award."

Though the Readings at Roselawn Authors' Series is sold out and there's a waiting list to get into the subscription series, there are often some tickets available each month at the box office next to the reading. They're \$15 apiece and well worth the price.

Lyon is the last author of this season but the series returns next fall.

For more information, call Bill's writing services at 905-834-0898 or call Amber Dodd at 905-899-0233.

George Duma is a resident of Port Colborne and has spent 30 years in the newspaper business. He is currently a member of the journalism faculty at Niagara College. He welcomes comments and column suggestions and can be reached at gduma@cogeco.ca.

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■ **HEALTHCARE:** Residents urged to speak out at public hearing March 9

Share your thoughts on the local health system

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Pat Schofield is urging the community to share its thoughts on the local health-care system.

Schofield, a representative of the People's Health Care Coalition, was at the Port Colborne city council meeting Monday, Feb. 22 to raise awareness of an upcoming public hearing.

After first learning Niagara Health System's hospital improvement plan recommended Port Colborne General Hospital be converted to a 14-hour prompt care centre, the public was outraged, Schofield said. Thousands rallied together to attend public meetings, write letters, but all "to no avail," she told council.

When thousands attended a rally to Queen's Park last April to protest hospital cutbacks, then Health Minister Bruce Campbell was motivated to appoint a rural and northern panel to review and recommend how to better co-ordinate the delivery of health-care services in Ontario's rural and northern areas, Schofield said.

"Port Colborne had a rural designation before the NHS released the HIP," she said. "We then discovered this designation had been withdrawn."

Schofield said the rural and northern panel has not sought input from municipalities even though input has been requested. She explained to council that a panel of experts has been assembled by the Ontario Health Coalition to host public hearings across the province and

receive input about the health-care system.

Panelists include Ontario Health Coalition director Natalie Mehra, Nickel Belt MPP France Gelinas — responsible for health and long-term care — and other health-care experts.

A public hearing on small, rural and northern hospitals will be held on Tuesday, March 9, from 3 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Welland Lions Club, 414 River Rd. People are invited to write a submission or make an oral presentation of up to five minutes. Speakers are asked to contact the Ontario Health Coalition at 416-441-2502 or ohc@sympatico.ca to confirm a spot. Deadline to book a presentation is Monday, March 1, at 5 p.m. Submissions can be sent in until March 9.

Following the meeting, a report will be sent to the premier and minister of health.

Schofield urged residents to come out to the hearing to both share their views and become informed about issues faced by small, rural and northern hospitals. She asked that people share their experiences with the new system and their concerns for the future. Local business representatives are encouraged to attend and share the effects hospital restructuring has had on the business community, she said.

"We also would like to hear from our physicians for their expert guidance and opinions. The panel wants to hear from you," she said. "We must keep up the fight and never give up until we are given timely and equitable access to essential health care services," she said.

mfirth@wellandtribune.ca

■ HEALTH CARE

Creating a model for small communities

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — "We have proven that we are fully capable to become a blueprint for what a rural emergency centre should and can encompass," Mayor Vance Badawey told Port Colborne city council Monday, Feb. 22.

That's the message he hopes to also share with Health Minister Deb Mathews in the near future.

Badawey informed council Monday he has requested a meeting with Mathews, in hopes of updating her on the status of the urgent care centre in Port Colborne, and the strides the city has made since Niagara Health System hospital improvement plan changes were implemented last year.


While the centre operates "in an efficient manner," Badawey said he would argue that UCCs operate "far more effectively in urban centres, in tandem with emergency departments."

The city has been working hard over the past year to "address many of the gaps" within Port Colborne's primary health-care network that drove up costs in efficiently running an emergency department, he said.

The city has been working with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, the Hamilton Niagara Haldam Brant Local Health Integration Network, the NHS and city physicians to create a health-care model for small and rural communities.

Badawey hopes Mathews will consider that rural emergency centres should take advantage of highly trained health professionals on site.

See **HEALTH CARE** | Page 20



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■ early years activities

PORT COLBORNE — The following events are being held at the Ontario Early Years Centre, 92 Charlotte St., Port Colborne. For more information or to register, contact the centre at 905-834-9071.

- The Ontario Early Years Centre offers interactive play sessions. They are held mornings, Monday to Friday, from 9 a.m. to noon; afternoons, Monday to Wednesday, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.; and Thursday from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.

- The Interactive Fit Friday program is held on Friday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Join the group as they promote physical activity.

The program will offer fun opportunities for you to participate in, and ideas about what you can do to encourage your family to keep fit. This program is for children and their parent/caregiver.

- **Babies on the Move** — interactive infant program will be held on Monday March 8 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required. This afternoon program is for infants and their parent/caregiver.

- The Local Planning Group meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 24 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Pre-registration is

required. This morning meeting is a chance for participants to offer suggestions and share ideas on programming, fundraising, and program enhancements. Childcare spaces are limited.

- **Making Baby Food Demonstration** — infant program will be held on Monday, March 22 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required. This afternoon program is for infants and their parent/caregiver.

- **Explore with Me** — interactive preschool program will be held on Thursday, March 25 and April 1 from 9:30 a.m. to

11:30 a.m. Pre-registration is required. This morning program is for preschoolers, age two to six years old and their parent/caregiver.

- **Babies, Bunnies and Me** — interactive infant program will be held on Monday, March 29 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required.

- **Explore with Me** — interactive toddler program will be held Wednesday, March 31 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Pre-registration is required. This morning program is for toddlers age 18 months to 30 months and their parent/caregiver.

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Apartment Unfurnished A610

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BUILDING
20 MI S
Now ready for
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VIST OUR
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After 5 call for app.
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\$600 - includes. Newly
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1 BDRM upper, 80
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Quiet view. Lots of
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\$500 + hydro. Avail.
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1 BDRM newly renovat
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+ hydro. Ready now,
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Apartment Unfurnished A610

2 BDRM 134 Lyons Ave.
Welland. \$400.00
util/stove/drive/bammi,
incl. 1st/2nd flr. No
smoke/pet. 905-903-
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Must See

2 BDRM \$725 + hydro.
Quiet, clean building
with mature tenants
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Must See

2 BDRM APT, 484 King
St., Welland. \$675/mo +
hydro. Avail. now. (905)
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2 BDRM apt, fridge &
washer, incl. inclusive,
laundry facilities.
Aval. immediately
Call 205-400-5059

Must See

2 BDRM Forthill in quiet
mature building.
Recently renov. stove,
fridge, capnot, lockers.
Aval. May 1st
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Must See

2 BDRM, large, with
balcony, laundry, PT
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Must See

2 BDRM quiet building
with balc. Ridgeview,
\$595+ hydro Pter
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Must See

2 BDRM Secured
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Lincoln St. Plaza.
\$750/mo. incl. stove,
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2 BDRM upper,
174 Hagar St. \$750 inclusive,
no smoking/pets, avail.
now, 1st/2nd flr. Call
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174 Hagar St. \$750 inclusive,
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*******Unique*******
 3 BDRM apt. June 1st, \$1240. 2 BDRM Apt. April 1st, \$600. 1 BDRM apt. April 1st, \$540. All units all inclusive. Low rates. Special amenities, laundry building, and gym room. **905-714-3328** www.campbellhouse.com/humanresources/

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81 EMPIRE STREET - 1 3000 sq. ft. 12 unit building, beautiful, \$800. Only pc. Near Church, April 1st. **905-736-7845**

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General Employment

Apartment/Unfurnished

BEAUTIFUL 2 BDRM. clean, quiet building. Security entrance. Laundry facilities. 1st floor. **905-662-0588** Port Colborne

EAST MAIN - 2 BDRM from \$700. Fully equipped, secure entrance. Near Transit, all amenities. **905-734-3035**

FISHING FOR THE PERFECT APPT? CATCH THIS! Fortescue 1, 2 & 3 bdrms fully equipped etc. near all amenities, wonderful view of recreational area. One look & you'll be hooked. Call Mike @ **905-734-1404**.

BOUTLINE SPACIOUS 2 bedroom, Stone, fridge, No pets. Mature clientele. **905-690-4326**

GREAT RATES!! 3 Bed Apt. Call for info. 1 bdrm from \$640 2 bdrms from \$680 3 bdrms from \$895 **905-734-4210**

LG UPPER 2 bdrm. close to Frigate & Hospital. \$525/age & hydro. **905-635-2811**

Apartment/Unfurnished

MERRITT PLACE APT 2 bdrm \$545 includes hydro. **905-784-1152**

PORT COLBORNE 21st King St. Mature living. 2 bdrms. **905-834-1602**

PT. COLLE, Atlantic St near Vista 1 BR, \$550 or 2 BR, \$650. **905-851-6469**

CHECK IT OUT QUIET MATUR LIVING in Port Colborne

1 & 2 BDRM Apts. no's. Indulgences, dishwasher, A/C, full bath. **905-1652 after 5pm**

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Apartment/Unfurnished

AVAIL. IMMED. Large clean upper 2 bdrm. First & last. No smokers. No pets. **905-898-1028** Welland west

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1 ROOM laundry, cable web, non smoker, students employed. **905-786-3215**

3 BDRM spacious, north west location, close to all amenities and college, updated, all appliances included. Call for details **905-831-5368**

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CHOOSE YOUR OWN "RENT TO OWN" Home Time of Renting! Working on contract? **905-734-4753**

REX APTS. Avail. 1 bdrms, 2 bdrms, 3 bdrms. **905-734-4753**

Wanted 2 bdrms upper level, no carpets, fridge, stove, A/C, full bath, heat, 1st & last Avail. **905-635-1015**

FAMILY COMPLEX 3 BDRM with appliances. \$720 + util. Close to schools, bus stop & 406. Call **905-735-4817** before 9 pm

Health & Medical

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SMALL 2 BDRM yard, roomy, close with lake view. \$600. + ut. No dogs. **905-898-1028** Welland west

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HEALTH CARE

City working to improve care: Badawey

FROM PAGE 15

"Triage nurses are more than capable of deciding whether a patient should be seen in the emergency department or UCC, which run in a tandem synergistic fashion in the current UCC," he told council.

With one emergency-trained physician overseeing both departments, patients will be seen in the right place, at the right time, by the proper health-care professionals, he said.

"This will ensure equitable access of care, and a funding model will reimburse accordingly."

Costs will be significantly lower, Badawey said, if a patient is seen by a nurse practitioner or a physician assistant when appropriate.

Over the past year, Port Colborne hosted physician assistant students who will graduate from McMaster University in a few short months. The city hopes to utilize these professionals to provide better care and outcomes for patients in the urgent care centre.

"Patients will be seen in a timely fashion, and off-load delays in the emergency departments will be decreased significantly."

Badawey hopes to meet with Mathews over the next two months to discuss potential for putting this plan into action.

"We began this process over a year ago, and our success is noticed by many other communities in Ontario," he said.

"Our process gives credence to both models of care, blending emergency departments and UCCs into a cost-effective strategy ensuring best practice and better patient outcome."

"The fact of the matter is that we presented this concept to (then health) minister (David) Caplan over a year ago."

Badawey believes that presentation contributed to Caplan's decision to form a rural and small community health care panel.

He said the city's intent was to work in tandem with the panel, but to date has received no update on its work.

"My desire is to sit down with the minister and work together toward a model that is acceptable for our community and all smaller communities throughout the province."

"A model to ensure appropriate emergency services specific to the needs of our community and all smaller communities throughout the province of Ontario."

Badawey said he's currently waiting to hear back from Mathews to determine a date when the two will be able to meet.

mfirth@wellandtribune.ca

FESTIVAL

City treasurer reports \$31,000 shortfall from Canal Days

FROM PAGE 19

Through a number of savings in the Port Colborne Economic and Tourism Development Corp.'s budget, the \$31,000 shortfall will be covered, he said.

The city contributed roughly \$115,000 to the festival's \$709,000 budget.

Ward 1 Coun. David Barrick questioned whether the financial report could have been submitted to council at an earlier date. Senese said generally the report is submitted within 90 days of the festival and the 2010 report will hopefully fall within that timeline.

During the council meeting, Barrick and Ward 2 Coun. Dominic Urani were appointed to the Canal Days advisory committee for 2010.

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